

Status of and Amendments to the Claims

1. (original): A tank having:

- a filter which divides the tank into upper and lower portions;
- a fluid inlet in the lower portion for admitting into the tank a fluid with entrained solids; and
- a fluid outlet in the upper portion through which filtered fluid can leave the tank,

characterized in that the filter comprises:

- filter media supported on a permeable wall, the wall including a filter media outlet which is normally closed; and
- opening means for opening the filter media outlet to allow the filter media to discharge into the lower portion of the tank.

2. (original): A tank as claimed in claim 1, in which the wall of the filter is substantially conical, tapering downwardly to the filter media outlet.

3. (previously presented): A tank as claimed in claim 1, in which the opening means for opening the filter media outlet comprises a valve in the said filter media outlet.

4. (previously presented): A tank as claimed in claim 1, in which means is provided for operating the opening means remotely.

5. (previously presented): A tank as claimed in claim 1, in which a baffle is provided adjacent the fluid inlet to direct the flow of fluid and entrained solids away from the filter.

6. (original): A tank as claimed in claim 5, in which the baffle is annular and induces a cyclonic flow in the fluid and entrained solids entering the tank.

7. (previously presented): A tank as claimed in claim 1, in which the permeability of the wall is provided by perforations in the wall.

8. (original): A tank as claimed in claim 7, in which the wall comprises a mesh sheet.

9. (previously presented): A tank as claimed in claim 1, in which the wall is formed from a plurality of individual screens.

10. (previously presented): A tank as claimed in claim 1, in which a filter media inlet is provided in the tank above the filter.

11. (previously presented): A tank as claimed in claim 1, in which a second filter media outlet is provided in the tank below the filter.

12. (previously presented): A tank as claimed in claim 1, in which a fluidising unit is provided in the lower portion of the tank.

13. (original): A tank as claimed in claim 12, in which the fluidising unit discharges fluidised solids from the tank through a solids discharge duct.

14. (previously presented): A tank as claimed in claim 12, in which the filter media discharged from the filter into the lower portion of the tank is removed from the tank by the fluidising unit.

15. (previously presented): A tank as claimed in claim 12, in which the fluidising unit is fed with fluid from a second tank.

16. (previously presented): A tank as claimed in claim 1, in which back flushing means are provided for back flushing the filter media.

17. (currently amended): A ~~method~~ tank as claimed in claim 16, in which the back flushing means comprises a flow distribution device which distributes a flushing fluid over an upper surface of the filter media.

18. (currently amended): A ~~method~~ tank as claimed in claim 16, in which the back flushing means is fed with fluid from the second tank.

19. (original): A tank as claimed in claim 18, in which the flushing fluid is water.

20-24. (canceled)

25. (previously presented): A tank having:

- a filter which divides the tank into upper and lower portions;

- a fluid inlet in the lower portion for admitting into the tank a fluid with entrained solids; and

- a fluid outlet in the upper portion through which filtered fluid can leave the tank,

characterized in that the filter comprises:

- filter media supported on a permeable wall, the wall including a filter media outlet which is normally closed, where the wall is substantially conical, tapering downwardly to the filter media outlet, and where the wall comprises a feature selected from the group consisting of perforations in the wall, a mesh sheet, a plurality of individual screens and combinations thereof; and

- opening means for opening the filter media outlet to allow the filter media to discharge into the lower portion of the tank.